

# THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER;

UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

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## THE ANTI-SLAVERY REPORTER

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\* \* Except in peculiar cases, the *Anti-slavery Reporter* should not be ordered from the Anti-slavery Office, but from such news-agent as may be most convenient.

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## THE CASE OF THE CREOLE.

To the Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.  
New York, 1st April, 1842.

DEAR SIR,—I am instructed by our committee to express to you their high gratification at the determination of your government not to surrender the negroes of the *Creole*, either as felons or as slaves. It is now understood that their *surrender* will not be insisted on by our cabinet, but that a pecuniary compensation for the loss of these human chattels will be peremptorily demanded.

We are consulting the interests, not merely of humanity, but also of our country, when we unhesitatingly declare our earnest wish that this demand may be promptly and resolutely refused. It would tend greatly to strengthen and perpetuate slavery among us, were other nations to recognise our property in human beings, beyond the actual jurisdiction of our slave code.

By acceding, moreover, to this demand, your government would become in fact, to a very great extent, *insurers* of our American slave-traders against shipwreck and revolt. This American slave-trade is a most inhuman and detestable traffic, little, if any, inferior in atrocity to the African trade; and our slave-holders are exceedingly anxious to compel Great Britain to recognise and respect it as a legitimate commerce.

If Portugal still authorised the slave-trade, and a cargo of Africans should happen to be brought into London, under circumstances like those under which the *Creole* negroes were carried into your West Indies, would the British nation condescend to participate in the accursed commerce, by calculating and paying the market price of men, women, and children?

We are happy to assure you that anti-slavery principles are rapidly extending at the north, and are gaining converts even at the south. The anti-slavery *organization* is from various causes less efficient than formerly; but the tone of public opinion is decidedly improved, while the opposition to us has diminished in strength and virulence.

We perceive at present but one obstacle to our ultimate and entire triumph, and that is the possible annexation of Texas to the United States. Should this renegade republic be received into the union, not only would the permanency of slavery be secured in this country, but the curse would probably be spread over Mexico, and perhaps far beyond it. The annexation is the last hope of the slave-holders, and to effect it, their agents at Washington will endeavour to involve this country in a war with Mexico—a measure which they justly believe would result in a union with Texas. The abolitionists will do their best to avert so dire a calamity, but it is uncertain how far success will attend their efforts.

We shall be happy to receive frequent communications from you, and to co-operate with you in promoting the great cause of human liberty.

I am, Sir, very respectfully your obedient servant,

SIMON S. JOCELYN,

Corresponding Secretary of the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society.

## CORRESPONDENCE WITH MR. GRANTLEY BERKELEY.

Berkeley House, April 14th, 1842.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a pamphlet entitled *Emigration from India*, to which your name, “on behalf of the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society,” is subscribed.

In return, I have to request that you will acquaint the members of that committee, that it has been with the deepest regret that I have looked through the pages of that publication, and in it perceived a vein so party stricken and purposely deceptive, as to the real intentions of those who are advocates for the importation of free labour into the Mauritius, as well as other places, that I cannot but regard it as calculated to do an infinity of mischief to the general welfare of British colonial property, while, at the same time it amounts to an address, *favourable to the foreign slave*.

I have voted for, and been an unflinching advocate in furtherance of the abolition of slavery, but, at the same time, I have never lent myself—nor will I lend myself, to the views of a party who seem entirely to forget that there are other interests, as well as those of the negro population, which are entitled to an equal share of just and fair attention from the government of this country.

At the present moment there exists a ruinous depression on colonial property, as uncalled for as it is cruel. There are localities where the black population cannot be induced, either by a fair and ample amount of wages, or by giving them an interest in the produce, to work upon estates; and to such an extent has this existed, that the owners of many estates have been necessitated to expend far more than the sum received in compensation in forced disbursements, without a shilling of income in return. It is an established fact, that, in the last year, the cost of labour in making a hogshead of sugar in British Guiana was greater than the value obtained for that commodity in the London market.

In parts of British Guiana, a fortnight's labour, or less, will supply a native family with vegetables for twelvemonths, the river abounds with the finest fish, while the “bush,” or forest, is full of deer and hogs; in addition to this, the climate and the custom of the country render clothing in no way important to the comfort of the negro. They have at their command the necessaries of life without the necessity of money to procure them; how then can you awaken in the breast of these people a desire for gold, or give them an interest in produce arising from the culture of the land?

I would impress on the Anti-Slavery Committee, and on the public, that unless free labour be introduced, and that to a widely spread and liberal extent, the cultivation of our colonies must be eventually abandoned, our possessions be returned into the hands of the black population, our nursery for seamen and the consumption of fourteen millions of home produce be lost to this country, the cause of religion relinquished, and that which was once a boasted territory—its population and all—be left to retrograde into a state of barbarism.

We have it now before our eyes, that the negroes in Demerara have struck to a man for exorbitant wages, while as a fact in favour of free labour importation, it is proved that the Portuguese emigrant has remained faithful and contented with his employer: do not tell me, then, that religion, reason, or justice, demand that we should oppose an emigration properly regulated, and where the spiritual and temporal welfare of the labourer would be duly considered and cared for by government.

I repeat, sir, my regrets, that a struggle so just and beautiful as the one in which we were lately engaged for the abolition of slavery, should now be turned into a mere ruse, and an unjust one too, against individual property, simply because that property is situated where slavery used to exist.

For myself, I am an advocate for the general importation of free labour to the Mauritius, to the British West India colonies whenever it is required—Guiana, Demerara and Berbice, guarded, as the measure should be, with the utmost jealousy as to the welfare, spiritual and temporal, of the emigrant.

A sufficiency of free labour once fairly obtained, the British West India merchant need fear no reduction of the duties on foreign sugar, but, on the contrary, he would be able to compete with the market of the world.

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) GRANTLEY FITZHARDINGE BERKELEY.

J. H. Tredgold, Esq.



TO THE HON. GRANTLEY FITZHARDINGE BERKELEY, M. P.

SIR,—In accordance with the communication I addressed you on the 15th instant, I laid your letter of the preceding day's date before the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society at its sitting on Monday evening last, and have now the honour of forwarding to you their reply.

The Committee have felt some degree of surprise, that a letter formally sent to them, through their secretary, containing charges which affected their character as a public body, and which evidently called for an answer in the way of explanation and defence, should have been forwarded by you to the public press for circulation, previously to their having communicated with you on the subject; and that surprise has been increased by finding your name on the West India Committee, appointed by the House of Commons, on the motion of Lord Stanley, to investigate the very points on which you so confidently express an opinion. The Committee think that it is always an unfavourable circumstance, when the ends of justice and truth are to be attained, that persons who have prejudged a case, should afterwards be called upon to examine and to decide upon its merits. Strict impartiality can scarcely be expected from them.

The circulation of a pamphlet by the Committee on the *Export of Coolies and other Indian labourers to Mauritius*, appears to have brought them under your displeasure, if not your reprobation; and in terms, permit them to say, which show but little courtesy or temper. You accuse them of having circulated a publication written in "a vein, so party stricken and PURPOSELY DECEPTIVE as to the real intentions of those who are advocates for the importation of free-labour into Mauritius, as well as other places, that I cannot but regard it as calculated to do an infinity of mischief to the general welfare of British colonial property, while at the same time it amounts to an address, *favourable to the foreign slave*." This, sir, is your charge, but the Committee ask, where is your evidence to prove it? You produce no arguments to overthrow the positions taken in the pamphlet—you adduce no testimony to damnify the facts on which its recommendations are founded—the Committee are, therefore, unable to repel the attack you have made on them, or to justify the course they have felt it their duty to pursue, except by denying the accuracy of your judgment in the matter, and pronouncing it to be as unfounded as it is injurious. The Committee have ever felt it to be their duty, in the documents which they have issued, to present to their readers what they believed to be truth, and could defend as such; and they presume to think that their composition as a body, as well as their past history, should have shielded them from the charge of being governed by a party spirit, and of giving publicity to statements with an intention to deceive. You, sir, as the advocate of a cause which you eloquently designate as "just and beautiful," must feel upon reflection, that the charges of which the Committee complain, ought not to have been lightly made, or if made hastily, or under a misapprehension, ought immediately to be withdrawn.

The opposition of the Committee to emigration from India to Mauritius, and the British West Indies, has been grounded on a large number of facts of an appalling character, which have been brought officially under the attention of the House of Commons and the country, and which led both the Indian and the Home governments entirely to prohibit that which they found themselves unable to regulate or control. You, sir, think emigration from India, may be so regulated as to be productive of no evils to the emigrants; so did not Lord Melbourne's government in 1839, when they declared themselves, on the evidence laid before them, as, "*decidedly hostile to every such project*." So did not the House of Commons in 1840, when it gave a decided negative to Lord John Russell's proposition to relax the prohibition in favour of Mauritius; and so did not Lord Auckland in 1841, when he declared it to be his opinion, in an official minute on the subject, that, "*no strictness of regulation, and no vigilance on the part of the authorities, would immediately prevent the infliction of grievous oppressions and deceits upon large numbers of persons, helpless from their poverty, and from their utter ignorance and inexperience*." In the face of such facts and testimonies as these, are the Committee to be told, that they are acting a deceptive and factious part, because they oppose themselves to the measures contemplated by the present government, for the import of Coolies into Mauritius. They seek to guard the ignorant against the wiles of the crafty—the helpless from becoming the prey of the strong; and to prevent, as far as they may, the repetition of those crimes, which have too long afflicted and disgraced mankind. A more familiar acquaintance than you appear to have with the proceedings of the Anti-slavery Society, would convince you of this.

Another charge which you hesitate not to bring against the Committee is, that they "seem entirely to forget that there are other interests, as well as those of the negro population, which are entitled to an equal share of just and fair attention from the government of this country." How do you prove this? not certainly by pointing at any act of theirs which will bear out the accusation, but merely by the expression of a strong opinion on your part, that it is so. Here again the Committee have nothing to reply to but an opinion, and must content themselves with simply denying its accuracy, and by stating in their own defence, that they always have been, and are, most anxious by all fair and legitimate means, to promote the welfare of all parties interested in the British colonies, not only on general grounds, but, because they are de-

sirous that the noble example set by Great Britain to the nations of the earth, in the abolition of slavery, should be universally followed. They have it is true, set themselves determinedly against the coercive legislation of the colonies by which it was sought to compel labour under a state of freedom; they have exposed to the condemnation of the public the oppressions which have been practised on the emancipated classes since they were declared free; they have pointed out the evils connected with the various schemes of immigration resorted to by the colonists, which have not only resulted in the waste of a large amount of capital, but in the destruction of thousands, and the misery of thousands more. They have not, however, at any time prevented a free circulation of labour through the colonies, but, on the contrary, have called for the repeal of those absurd and unjust restrictions which the colonists have themselves interposed to prevent it; and for the enactment of wholesome laws to regulate emigration, so far as it may be the spontaneous act of free persons desirous of bettering their fortunes, as field labourers, in the colonial possessions of this country, and have pointed out sources of supply whence they may be obtained without resorting either to India, Africa, or Europe, against which the Committee conceive, for good and sufficient reasons, special exceptions may be taken.

But, sir, you not only charge the Committee, who are able to defend themselves, with being the enemies of the colonies; but you endeavour to fix on the character of the liberated negroes, who are not able to repel your attacks, a stigma as unjust as it is uncalled for. On what evidence do you condemn them? Certainly not on official evidence. You say, "there are localities where the black population cannot be induced, either by fair and ample wages, or by giving them an interest in the produce, to work upon estates," and you add, "that to such an extent has this existed, that the owners of many estates have been necessitated to expend far more than the sum received in compensation, in forced disbursements, without a shilling of income in return." The Committee venture to ask where this has been the case—where the indolence of the negro on the one hand, or the exorbitant wages he demands on the other, has led to this result? Lord Stanley gives a very different account of the matter. With a more perfect knowledge of facts, his lordship pays the emancipated negroes a just tribute of praise for their industry, their self-improvement, and the noble uses they have made of their freedom. It is true, his lordship speaks of the high rate of wages paid to them for their labour; but this he attributes to the supply of labour not being equal to the demand, and not to any spirit of extortion on the part of the freed men.

But you say, in support of your statement, "It is an established fact, that in the last year, the cost of labour in making a hogshead of sugar in British Guiana, was greater than the value of that commodity (quantity?) in the London markets;" and again, "We have it before our eyes, that the negroes in Demerara have struck to a man for exorbitant wages." Now on both these points the Committee might challenge you to produce the proofs, in the perfect conviction that they would not be forthcoming; but, as they believe you have been misinformed upon these points, they venture to set you right.

Your first statement is founded, no doubt, on a report put forth by certain persons in Demerara, in December last year, that, "the cost of production on sixty estates in that province was 98 dollars 81 cents per hogshead, whilst the price in the British market was only 86 dollars 40 cents, showing a loss upon every hogshead of sugar made on those estates of 12 dollars 41 cents, equal to £2 11s. 8d. sterling per hogshead, exclusive of interest on capital, and extraordinary expenses." But, if you will consult the tabular statement which accompanies the report, you will find that the wages paid the negroes, did not amount to *one-half* the charges carried to the cost of producing a hogshead of sugar. There were the salaries of attorneys, managers, overseers, and medical men, besides taxes and other expenses included in the mighty sum, which brought the estates in debt; and this point, in fairness, ought to have been noticed by you. The Committee, however, believe the statement of the planters to be fallacious, and are confident that if it be thoroughly sifted in the Committee, of which you, sir, are a member, it will be found utterly at variance with truth. In opposition to it, the Committee can produce other statements of expenses incurred in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar on various estates, in the same colony, which show the cost of production, including the labourers' wages, salaries, taxes, interest on capital, and extraordinary expenses, to have been several pounds per hogshead less than above stated, and that the produce of the molasses and rum nearly covered the entire amount of wages paid the labourers, leaving the sugar almost without charge, to bear the other expenses of the estates, and to put a handsome profit into the pockets of the proprietors.

In alluding to the same case as that to which you refer, Lord Stanley, in his speech of the 23rd ultimo, said, he did not vouch for its accuracy. The substance of the statement made by the noble lord was this, that it had been represented to him, that the total expenses of sixty sugar estates in British Guiana, exclusive of interest on capital and extraordinary expenses, had, during the last year amounted to 1,295,678 dollars; and that the revenue had only been 312,171 dollars, leaving a dead loss to these states upon the year, of 983,507 dollars! In making this statement the noble lord was deceived by the form in which it appears in the table forwarded to him from Guiana. In that table a gross error has been committed, whether intentionally or inadvertently, the



Committee have no means of determining, but the amount of the sugar crop is not calculated in the column marked "Total Revenue," which it ought to have been; and, in the column in which it appears, it is represented by *dollars* instead of *hogsheads*, thus:—"Total sugar crop,"—"Dollars 9953;" whereas it should have been 9,953 hogsheads, or rather, 10,343 hogsheads, as it appears in the report which precedes the table!

Your second statement "That the negroes in Demerara have struck to a man for exorbitant wages," does not truly represent the case. There has been a strike on a considerable number of estates in that colony, occasioned by a general combination among the planters to reduce the wages "for the best quality of labour," to "32 cents, (about the third part of a dollar, or 1s. 4d. sterling,) for a full day's field labour," subject to a deduction of 16 cents a day for every day's absence from work, or for not performing the allotted task, with other stringent regulations, some of which are absolutely illegal. On the 1st of January last, the planters, without, it appears, giving the labourers any intimation of their intentions, commenced their insane proceedings. This led to a cessation of labour on many estates, extending over a period of three weeks, and, not being able to help themselves, the negroes have been forced to submit, or to be driven from their homes. This contest is to be deprecated, as it cannot fail very materially to affect the prosperity of the colony, to revive old feelings, and to lead the negroes, as they have opportunity, to become independent of their masters, by the possession of land of their own. On the subject of wages generally, the Committee remark, that the average amount paid the labourers on a considerable number of estates, which have made specific returns on the subject, ranges from 25s. to 27s. each per calendar month, and no more!

The Committee think it scarcely necessary to notice that part of your communication, in which you represent that "in parts of British Guiana, a fortnight's labour, or less, will supply a native family with vegetables for twelve months," that "the river abounds with the finest fish, while the 'Bush' or Forest is full of Deer and Hogs," of course for the use of all who can catch them, and, that—"the climate and the customs of the country render clothing in no way important to the comfort of the negro," because of its utter absurdity, and because it could only have been circulated for the purpose of imposing on the credulous and unreflecting. The Committee do not say that you, sir, have given currency to it for such a purpose; but it is inconceivable how you could have adopted it as true. You further say, that "they (the negroes,) have at their command the necessities of life, without the necessity of money to procure them;" and you ask, "How then can you awaken in the breasts of these people a desire for gold, or give them an interest in produce arising from the culture of the soil?" To this the Committee reply, that on your own shewing elsewhere, their desire for gold is so inordinate, that they will not work but for wages ruinously high! But, sir, the fact of their having become large purchasers of land since their emancipation from slavery; the fact of their being large consumers of imported provisions, and of British manufactured goods; the fact of their increase in knowledge, self respect, and morals, is a complete refutation of the calumny that they cannot be stimulated to labour except by the whip, and that as freemen, they will retrograde into a state of barbarism." If, sir, it were true that the negro need not work in Guiana for his living, or that he cannot be stimulated to exertion by the hope of reward, why are the planters of that colony, and their friends at home, so anxious to obtain additional numbers of them direct from Africa, however barbarous and uncivilized they may be? The answer is readily given that there are no labourers in the tropics equal to them, either for docility or for industry. You, sir, give it as your opinion, that, "unless free labour be introduced, and that to a widely spread and liberal extent, the cultivation of our colonies must be eventually abandoned." The Committee cannot agree with you. They do not conceive that immigration is the cure for the evils which are said to depress the colonies at the present moment. What is wanted to develop their resources is capital on the part of the proprietors to command the requisite amount of labour, or to pay for it regularly and punctually; what is wanted is a class of managers, who shall have the confidence of the people, and who shall unite with tact and good management, good humour and liberality; what is wanted, is a better mode of cultivation—a greater economy of human labour. Let these desiderata be found, and the Committee are persuaded an abundant supply of labourers will be found also, without going to the ends of the earth for them, and thus wasting the capital that might be otherwise and better employed. It is a well ascertained fact, that the best cultivated and most profitable estates in the British colonies, at the present time, are those on which the labourers are treated with the greatest liberality.

The fears which you entertain that without immigration the cultivation of the colonies must be abandoned, that they will ultimately become the possession of the black population; that our nursery for seamen, and the consumption of £14,000,000 of home produce be lost to this country, that the cause of religion will be relinquished, and utter barbarism everywhere prevail, are not participated in by the Committee. The facts of the case are all against you at the present time: there are already indications of increased cultivation in various colonies; the chief purchasers of estates in them are European residents, who are intimately acquainted with their value, and the character of the labouring population with whom they have to deal; the amount of shipping resorting to them of various kinds, and from various countries, is greater than ever, and the consumption of

British manufactured goods has been increased more than one-third in value, and one-half in quantity since emancipation has taken place, and churches, chapels, and schools are multiplying in every direction, and the demand for them constantly increasing. At all events, there are no symptoms of decay at present, and we have Lord Stanley's assurance, that, up to the last year, the planters have suffered no loss, for if there has been a diminished quantity of produce shipped home, which will admit of a satisfactory explanation, the advance in price, consequent upon that diminution, has more than compensated them for the decrease. You are, sir, however, wrong in your figures: the average quantity of home produce exported to the colonies during the last six years of slavery, was, not £14,000,000 as you state, but £2,783,000. During the four years of the apprenticeship £3,578,000, and during the first two years of complete freedom £3,747,599, showing a very rapid and most satisfactory increase.

The Committee are not aware that any other point in your letter calls for comment. They trust they have said enough to vindicate themselves and the emancipated negroes from your unjust charges, and, that, if they are honoured with any more communications from you, such communications will be more explicit in their facts, more courteous in their spirit, and therefore more deserving of reply.

I have the honor to be, yours respectfully,

J. H. TREDGOLD,

Secretary of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society.  
April 22nd, 1842, 27, New Broad Street.

### THE STRIKE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

[From the *Guiana Gazette and Advertiser*.]

We are happy to be able to write, on this first day of the month of March, that the strike which took place among the labourers at the beginning of the year, on account of an ill-advised and most unskillfully managed combination among the employers for the reduction of wages, may now be considered as at an end.

The result of this unwise and most miserably managed attempt at the reduction of the cost of producing sugar, may be stated in a few words.

First.—The entire loss of from four to six weeks labour upon at least three-quarters of the estates in the counties of Demerara and Essequibo.

Secondly.—The abandonment of several estates, upon which the labourers are either not at work at all, or which they have left in a body, and the prospect of the resumption of which is very uncertain.

Thirdly.—A considerable diminution of the number of labourers on the estates actually at work.

Fourthly.—A great impulse given to the purchase of freeholds upon the part of the labourers, who seem resolved to become independent proprietors at as early a day as possible.

Fifthly.—No reduction of wages at all—a *bona fide* reduction not having been effected upon any estate of which we have obtained an authentic account, except upon those of Sir Michael M'Turk, and a few others who had nothing at all to do with the combination, and whose refusal to come into it exposed them at first to many ill-natured remarks, and a great quantity of abuse on the part of the *Guiana Times*, which calls itself, and is generally considered, the organ of the planters and attorneys.

The combination and the strike which it produced, and which all men of information and reflection regarded as its natural and inevitable consequence, has been attended by many serious evils. It is to be hoped that we shall hear no more of combinations among the employers to force the employed into certain terms; and that the colonial legislature will at length pass some sort of a tenantry act, and will give over the absurd idea of keeping the labourers in a condition of serfdom, totally dependent for house and home on the caprice of their employers. There will, indeed, be great occasion for thankfulness, if the labourers, who are sufficiently apt scholars, and exceedingly keen at a bargain, shall not have learnt, from this unsuccessful attempt on the part of the weaker party, the employment of an instrument from which, in their hands, the most disastrous consequences might justly be feared.

In looking back upon the late strike, we cannot help remarking the extremely peaceable and quiet demeanour of the labourers, who engaged in no riots, and committed no breaches of the peace or violations of property; but, while exhibiting a high degree of obstinacy, and a fixed resolution not to be driven by anybody into working for diminished wages, took very good care to keep upon the safe side of the law.

This is to be ascribed partly to the generally peaceable disposition of the labourers, who, though loud enough in talk, seldom exhibit any disposition to come actually to blows, and very much also to the perfect trust with which they universally rely upon the justice and truth of the local government, to which they look with confidence for information and protection. If the labourers had felt a similar confidence, or anything approaching to it, in their employers, not only might a reduction of wages have been effected without any strike at all—as in the case of Sir Michael M'Turk above alluded to—but, after it was resolved to abandon the unlucky "rules and regulations"—the promulgation of which by the sole authority of the planters, and without any consultation with the labourers, or even previous notice to them, was the great cause of all the mischief—much less difficulty would have been experienced in persuading the labourers that some trick upon them was not concealed under the new proposal of the old terms, and in persuading them to recommence work as before.



## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The Committee have been sorry to learn that some of their friends in the country have not been able conveniently or regularly to procure the *Anti-Slavery Reporter*. They beg, therefore, to say, that, if, in cases of difficulty, information be sent to the Anti-slavery office, their best endeavours shall be used to supply a remedy.

Subscriptions and Donations to the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society may be forwarded to the Treasurer (G. W. Alexander, Esq.) at the Society's Office, 27, New Broad Street, London.

Communications for the Editor of the *Anti-Slavery Reporter* also should be sent to the Office of the Society, as above.

**Anti-Slavery Reporter.**

LONDON, MAY 4TH.

BEFORE our next number issues from the press, the third annual meeting of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society will have been held. It is already extensively announced for the 13th instant, at Exeter Hall. The Marquis of Clanricarde has accepted the invitation of the Committee to preside on the occasion, and various topics of immediate pressure will contribute largely to the interest of it.

WE direct attention to the correspondence, which they will find in another column, between Mr. Grantley Berkeley and the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Committee. We have given both Mr. Berkeley's letter and the reply.

WE are gratified by receiving some warm responses to the appeal which has been made by the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society on the subject of African emigration. Among the resolutions which have been forwarded to us are the following:—

*Spilsby, April 25th, 1842.*

DEAR SIR,—I am directed by the Committee of the Spilsby and Alford Auxiliary Anti-slavery Society to forward you the annexed resolutions, which were adopted this day in committee.

You will be kind enough to forward three hundred copies of the address for circulation. I am, dear sir, yours respectfully,

(Signed)

WILLIAM ROSE, Jun.

To J. H. Tredgold, Esq.

*Committee Room, Spilsby, April 25th, 1842.*

At a meeting of the committee held this day, the address of the London Anti-slavery Committee on the subject of emigration from Africa to the West Indies was read.

Resolved—That this committee entirely participate in the apprehensions of the Parent Committee, as to the danger to Africa of a forced system of emigration to the West Indies, and of its injustice and impolicy as it respects the free labourers of those islands.

That this meeting is prepared to co-operate vigorously in any efforts suggested by the Parent Committee as being calculated to prevent the threatened evil.

That these resolutions be forthwith communicated to the Parent Committee, and that 300 of the address be ordered for immediate circulation among the anti-slavery friends in this district.

H. HOLLAND, Chairman.

At a meeting of the committee of the Brighton Anti-slavery Society, held at the Town Hall, fourth month 22nd, 1842,

ISAAC BASS in the chair.

A communication was received from the Parent Society, relative to the proposed plan of government for emigration from Africa to the West India colonies, which has been read at this meeting.

Resolved—That this meeting sympathises with the Parent Society in their views respecting the injustice and danger of the proposed plan of emigration, and desires to encourage the committee in London to adopt such measures as may appear rightly to open, for the prevention of such a scheme being carried into effect.

Resolved—That a copy of the aforesaid communication from the Parent Society be forwarded to the members of parliament for this county, by the chairman, who is requested to draw their particular attention to the subject of it.

At length the wanting West Indian mails have arrived. By private advices we learn that the governor of Jamaica had issued a commission of inquiry into the recent murderous affair at Kingston, the result of which (for it would seem to have been secret) was anxiously waited for by all parties. The corporation of Kingston had shown their estimate of the matter, by re-electing Mr. Hector Mitchell as their chief magistrate. We take the following information of the general state of the island from a summary given by the *Morning Journal*.

"Our island, we rejoice to have it in our power to state, is peaceable and quiet. Advices from all parts of it are to this effect: since the cessation of the Christmas disturbances in this city, nothing has occurred to disturb its good order, and we have every reason to anticipate a continuance of the present calm."

"Health of the island.—The colony, on the whole, is healthy. The exceptions are Kingston and its neighbourhood, and Spanish Town and its neighbourhood. At these places the scarlatina still prevails to an alarming extent, and has committed serious ravages among the population. It is thought to be subsiding in some degree. We trust it will shortly disappear. In the rural districts the inhabitants enjoy their usual good health."

"The weather.—The agriculturists, and all parties interested in the cultivation of the soil, have had cause for gratulation in the very seasonable weather with which we have been favoured. The rains have been gene-

ral; and the effect is visible in the flourishing appearance of the cane and other fields. In some districts there has been rather too much rain after the late long and destructive drought; no one, however, is disposed to grumble at the excess of moisture."

"The crops.—It is with much pleasure we congratulate our readers upon the prospect which now presents itself in every part of the country of a fair average sugar-crop. We might safely say a large crop, in comparison with those that have been taken off for the last two or three years; but as these have been unusually and ruinously small, it would be manifestly unfair to institute any comparison between them and the present one. Our information, however, justifies the expectation that the quantity of sugar produced will be such as to revive the drooping hopes of the proprietors; perhaps we should be more correct in saying, would be such as to revive the drooping hopes of proprietors, had the price of the article in the mother-country not suffered such a serious depression. In some districts of the island the coffee-crops will be very small indeed, the trees not having borne. Experienced planters attribute this circumstance to the late drought, during which the coffee-plants suffered considerably, and from the effect of which they have not yet recovered. In the more favoured portions, and where the drought was not so severely felt, the crops, we learn, will be fair."

"Labour.—Complaints respecting the insufficiency of labour, and the conduct of some of the labourers, who do not, it is said, give an equivalent for the money they receive, continue to be made. They are not general, however, in any single parish; and appear to be confined to St. James, St. Elizabeth, Manchester, and Vere. In St. Mary's an injudicious attempt was made to reduce the price of labour, which has failed."

"In St. James, the labourers, or a portion of them, appear to have struck for higher wages, but without effect."

"The price of sugar.—The general complaint for some time past has been the low price of sugar in the home-market, and fears are entertained that the increased quantity will tend to send prices down still lower. The unfortunate sugar-growers seem to be placed between two extremes, and never able to reach that desirable middle state so essential to their happiness and prosperity. High prices, by engendering dissatisfaction and complaint on the part of the English consumers, strengthen the demands of their foreign rivals for the admission of their sugars, and provoke competition from the east; whilst low prices, on the other hand, render the production of sugar an unprofitable, if not a losing concern. We can only hope that no further reduction may take place in the price of the article."

In British Guiana, the infatuated measures of the planters have been abandoned, and the labourers generally have resumed their toil. The condition of the colony is matter of vehement dispute between the respective parties in it. The terrific accounts given by the *Guiana Times* are too obviously intended for effect to be deserving of any confidence. The attorney-general of this colony, Mr. Gloster, has given a most extraordinary opinion, to the effect that the planters are entitled to eject from their cottages the labourers who will not work for them, immediately and by force, without an appeal to a magistrate! An attempt made on the part of the government to confer on the labourers the rights of tenants is violently opposed by the planters, lest it should "make them independent." How is it these gentlemen do not see, that, to refuse the peasantry as tenants, is to drive them to become freeholders?

WE have much pleasure in presenting to our readers the following extract of a letter from Mr. Lewis Tappan to Mr. Sturge. It is dated

*New York, April 1st, 1842.*

The committee voted last evening to address a letter to the Committee of the British and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society, on several topics connected with the anti-slavery cause, particularly on the subject of the *Creole*. Since the receipt of the debates in the House of Lords, our politicians are abandoning part of the ground taken. They now allow that Great Britain is not obliged to give up the nineteen persons as pirates, murderers, or mutineers; but, if the 135 were liberated through the influence of the British authorities at Nassau, this government had a claim on the British government for compensation! They are endeavouring to shew now that this was the principal point in Mr. Webster's despatch to Mr. Everett. They earnestly hope your committee will be upon the look out with reference to this matter, and that your government will never allow compensation in such a case as this. Should they do so, many vessels loaded with slaves will probably find their way to the British islands, and a sale be made of them to your government.

We are now in danger of being involved in war with Mexico, and having Texas annexed to this country. Mexico has poured in about 15,000 troops into Texas, who are marching through the country rapidly. The Texans have turned out *en masse* to resist them, and have appealed to the people of this country for aid.

This government has ordered troops to the frontiers, ostensibly to preserve tranquillity in our own borders, but really, it is feared, to afford countenance to the Texans.

Very great efforts will be made to involve this country in a war with Mexico, and to annex Texas to the United States.

The anti-slavery cause is onward here, without doubt, and the crisis approaches rapidly. God is interfering for the deliverance of the poor slaves, "in judgment or in mercy."

As a striking illustration of the last sentence in this interesting communication, we may notice the important step which a member of congress, Mr. Giddings, has taken, by introducing into the house of representatives some noble resolutions on the case of the *Creole*. Of the agitated and extraordinary proceedings to which this act gave rise we have presented a detail elsewhere; we shall here add a few lines from the *Emancipator*, to show in what light this important step is regarded by the friends of liberty.

Our readers may rest assured that Mr. Giddings has pursued, throughout the late extraordinary proceedings, a course eminently judicious, patriotic, dignified, firm, and honourable to himself and his constituents. His resolutions were most timely—they broke the silence of the house on



a subject on which, before, every lip had been sealed. They have spoiled the plot by which the slave-holders intended to smuggle the country into a war in defence of slavery. This is what made them so mad. This was the treason of the measure. The resolutions are so true, so logical, so irrefutable, that the slavocracy did not dare to have them discussed, and Mr. Giddings therefore did wisely in withdrawing them, that they might not be rejected without discussion. It was patriotic in him to save the country from a blind commitment to the opposite of those resolutions, at the expense of a war.

His demand of time to prepare for his defence was also strictly proper. It was a right of the accused; and although, in the particular case, he would not have been caught unprepared, yet his omission to claim the right would have wrought injustice as a precedent in the case of others. A moment's reflection also will satisfy every one that he acted right in refusing to enter on his defence by the courtesy or charity of his enemies. He knew enough of their temper to know that a defence, with his head in the lion's mouth, would be rather an aggravation than an advantage.

Mr. Giddings is, beyond a question, the ablest, most industrious, and most influential member of the house from the whole north-west. There are others who make more noise, but no other so universally respected and confided in. We have no doubt he will come back with a vote nearly unanimous from his great district.

The affairs of Texas are undoubtedly adapted to excite the deepest anxiety. We have been concerned to see it announced that a treaty between Texas and Great Britain would probably be ratified by August next. We had hoped that the present government would not have entered into negotiation with this insurgent province upon any subject.

WE copy from the *Colonial Gazette* the following extract of a letter from Sierra Leone, dated 12th February, 1842.

"There is a French brig of war in harbour, making the second that has been here within the last three or four weeks. The ostensible reason of their visiting this port is to watch and inquire into the system of emigration from hence. From what I can gather from the French officers, their government is very jealous of the system."

This jealousy of the French government is both natural and just. How will the promoters of the African emigration scheme disarm it?

In the *Revue des Colonies*, which we have just received, we find a copy of a letter of M. Granier de Cassagnac to one of his good friends in the West Indies, M. Bouvet, making such an exposure of himself as would be enough to ruin any man who had a character to lose. It is not with himself alone, however, that he takes injurious freedoms. He uses the liberty of announcing the views of the government [in the following terms:—"The government has no more intention of emancipating the slaves than you or I have; and it will load me with benedictions if I will disembarass it of the Broglie commission." That M. Granier has a sufficient reason for saying this, even if it is not true, is obvious enough from the selfish purpose to which he turns it; but the circulation of such an assertion in the colonies gives the greater importance to every indication by which it can be demonstrated that the government is really sincere. It shows at the same time by what methods a determined opposition to emancipation is sustained in the colonies.

#### UNITED STATES: IMPORTANT PROCEEDINGS IN CONGRESS.

THE legislature of the United States has been the scene of another "tempest" on the dreaded anti-slavery question. The whole proceedings on this occasion are so important and so interesting, that we shall detail them at some length, as given by the *Emancipator and Free American*.

On Monday, March 21, resolutions being in order, Mr. Giddings said he had a series of resolutions on a subject which had been debated with much interest at the other end of the capitol, although the discussion had not yet reached the house. The resolutions he should offer at this time, and wished them to be read for the information of the house, as he intended to call them up for discussion at the first convenient opportunity. The clerk read the following

##### RESOLUTIONS ON THE CREOLE CASE.

Resolved—That prior to the adoption of the federal constitution each of the several states composing this union exercised full and exclusive jurisdiction over the subject of slavery within its own territory, and possessed full power to continue or abolish it at pleasure.

Resolved—That by adopting the constitution no part of the aforesaid powers were delegated to the federal government, but were reserved by and still pertain to each of the several states.

Resolved—That by the 8th section of the first article of the constitution, each of the several states surrendered to the federal government all jurisdiction over the subjects of commerce and navigation upon the high seas.

Resolved—That slavery, being an abridgement of the natural rights of man, can exist only by force of positive municipal law, and is necessarily confined to the territorial jurisdiction of the power creating it.

Resolved—That when a ship belonging to the citizens of any state of this union leaves the waters and territory of such state, and enters upon the high seas, the persons on board cease to be subject to the slave laws of such state, and thenceforth are governed in their relations to each other by, and are amenable to, the laws of the United States.

Resolved—That when the brig *Creole*, on her late passage for New Orleans, left the territorial jurisdiction of Virginia, the slave laws of that state ceased to have jurisdiction over the persons on board said brig, and such persons became amenable only to the laws of the United States.

Resolved—That the persons on board said ship, in resuming their natu-

ral rights of personal liberty, violated no law of the United States, incurred no legal penalty, and are justly liable to no punishment.

Resolved—That all attempts to regain possession of or to re-enslave said persons are unauthorized by the constitution or laws of the United States, and are incompatible with our national honour.

Resolved—That all attempts to exert our national influence in favour of the coastwise slave-trade, or to place this nation in the attitude of maintaining a "commerce in human beings," are subversive of the rights, and injurious to the feelings and the interests of the free states, are unauthorized by the constitution, and prejudicial to our national character.

Even Mr. Adams's presentation of a petition from northern freemen for a dissolution of the union, was not so great a blow as these resolutions, for it did not strike so directly at the grand conspiracy to smuggle the country into a war for the defence and extension of the slave-trade. The first attempt was to prevent the resolutions from being received, so that they need not go on the journals; but it was found that, under the rules, no such question could be raised on resolution day. The next effort was a motion of Mr. Everett, of Vermont, (!) to lay them on the table by a vote, but our experienced overseer from Kentucky, Mr. Andrews, understood the game better, and said he wished to have a direct vote on the resolutions themselves. Consequently, the motion to lay on the table was lost, 52 to 125.

This was a master movement of the overseers, if they could thereby bring the house, on a sudden impulse, to reject the resolutions themselves, under the coercion of their master's eye, and thus get the country committed to the contrary doctrine, and get the whole thing through the house without discussion, which they dreaded. Regularly, according to the rules, all resolutions that elicit objection or debate are laid over to another day and take their place on the docket of business, and it was the business of the speaker to make the announcement immediately. But Mr. White has now learned to take the wink on all matters that concern slavery or his party, and plays fast or loose with the rules, as occasion may require. He therefore allowed General Ward, a most devoted sub-overseer from the state of New York, to thrust in a motion for the previous question, on another member's resolutions! A most ungentlemanly and impertinent thing indeed. Being on the right side, he was allowed to make a speech out of all rule, in which he declared, in effect, that it would not answer to allow the question to remain undecided long enough to discuss it, but that the salvation of the country demanded an immediate decision. The P. Q. was seconded, and then Mr. Holmes, the embodiment of Charleston courtesy, began a speech, saying, "there are subjects [slavery] as well as places, too sacred for common discussion; [What a holy thing slavery must be!] but," said he, "fools rush in, where angels fear to tread." Here the oration was interrupted by a call to order, and could not go on.

Mr. J. Q. Adams said he would like to have the question divided, for he would vote for some of the resolutions and against others.

Mr. Everett asked to be excused from voting on this question, and assigned as a reason that the subject would come before the committee on Foreign Relations, and he did not wish to commit himself until that committee should report; he would, however, express his strong objection to the firebrand course pursued by the gentleman from Ohio on this floor. The house refused to excuse him.

[It ought to be known that there is a very snug and respectable office under the federal government in Vermont, the present incumbent of which is a very old and infirm man, and as soon as he drops it, the appointment will be in the hands of President Tyler, who will doubtless give it to some man of approved "patriotism," according to the executive standard. This fact may help to explain many things, otherwise unaccountable.]

Mr. J. G. Floyd rose to ask to be excused from voting, until he could see and read the resolutions; but withdrew his motion to be excused.

Mr. Fessenden asked to be excused, as the resolutions involved principles of great moment, which, at the short notice thus given, it was impossible he could vote understandingly upon them. Not excused.

Mr. Cushing asked to be excused from voting on the resolutions, as they were British arguments of a treasonable nature against this country, and such as would compel him to vote against them seriatim. He then withdrew his request.

All this contrivance of the overseers to get the house committed to the slave interest so that they could not go back, but might be pushed forward into a war, was at once frustrated by Mr. Giddings' withdrawal of the resolutions. They had served the great purpose of calling the attention of the country to the true principles of law and justice, and constitutional obligation, and he could well afford to withdraw them, sacrificing no principle or point of honour, and at the same time prostrating the plot of the conspirators against liberty. The frantic fury of the slaveholders when he proposed the withdrawal, turning the hall into a bedlam-cell for half an hour, proves that the tact of the latter movement was equal to the boldness of the first.

The correspondent of the *Journal of Commerce* says he withdrew the resolutions on account of "the trouble and confusion they would make among his particular friends." We do not believe he acted under any such motive; if he did, he got well paid for it, for, as soon as he had succeeded in withdrawing them, Mr. Botts, of Virginia, a leading whig, who has gained much good will at the north for his support of Mr. Adams and the right of petition, seized the opportunity to expurgate himself, and offered the following

##### RESOLUTION OF CENSURE.

Whereas the Hon. Joshua R. Giddings, the member from the sixteenth congressional district of the state of Ohio, has this day presented to this house a series of resolutions touching the most important interests connected with a large portion of the union, now a subject of negotiation between the United States and Great Britain, of the most delicate nature, the result of which may eventually involve those nations and perhaps the whole civilized world in war; and, whereas the duty of every good citizen, and particularly the duty of every selected agent and representative of the people, should discountenance all efforts to create excitement, dissatisfaction, and division among the people of the United States, at such a time and under such circumstances, which is the only effect to be accomplished by the introduction of sentiments before the legislative body of the country hostile to the grounds assumed by the high functionary having charge of this important and delicate trust; and, whereas mutiny and murder are therein justified and approved in terms shocking to all sense of law, order and humanity; therefore,



*Resolved*—That this house hold the conduct of the said member as altogether unwarranted and unwarrantable, and deserving the severe condemnation of the people of this country, and of this body in particular.

Mr. Botts was not in order, because the state of Virginia had already been called. He was obliged to move a suspension of rules, which, as it requires two-thirds, failed. Yeas 124, nays 68, showing 68 men at least who dare to uphold the rights of a free representative.

After a little altercation, Mr. Weller, of Ohio, whose notable services as a sub-overseer have often been recorded in our columns, said, that as resolutions from Ohio were still in order, he would renew the motion of the gentleman from Virginia. He wished to express in the strongest terms his dissent from the course pursued by his colleague. With characteristic generosity he moved the previous question, in the hope thereby to condemn Mr. Giddings unheard!

Mr. Giddings inquired whether, if the previous question should be sustained, he could be heard in his defence.

The speaker decided that, as it was a question of privilege, Mr. Giddings had now a right to defend himself, but that after the previous question, he could not proceed.

Mr. Giddings claimed a delay of two weeks, to prepare his defence, and he wished a postponement for that purpose.

A desultory jangle again followed in regard to the question of postponement, and to the numerous questions of order. The speaker decided that the previous question could not be put until the accused had been heard, and that when put, it cut off the accused as well as all others from speaking at all. On appeal, he was overruled as to the first point, the house deciding that the previous question could be put before the accused had been heard. And it was put and carried. On another appeal the speaker was sustained, and the house decided that the previous question cut off the accused member from his defence. And he was silenced!

In the midst of these proceedings, however, the house adjourned, before the final vote was taken.

That night a caucus was held, and the plan of operations for the next day agreed on. The troops in the morning of Tuesday were well drilled to do their dirty work of despotism. The righteous and sensible decision of the speaker was first overruled, seventy-seven to ninety-eight, and the main question on the adoption of the vote of censure ordered, ninety-five to ninety-one.

Triplett of Kentucky, in the midst of a terrible storm of disorder and loud talking, tried to move that Mr. Giddings be allowed a hearing in his own defence. But the chair (of course, after the decision against him) would not receive the motion. Mr. Adams made an effort, by raising a question of order, with the like success. Stewart of Vermont, moved to reconsider the last vote, but the chair said the motion was out of order; and, on an appeal, he was sustained by a large vote. Brown of Tennessee asked to be excused from voting. This was an appeal to moral influence on a question of morals. But a vote of censure would do no good, and it might be considered as indicative of a disposition to persecute—"order" said the speaker and his mallet. "The question cannot be debated."

Cushing wished to be excused. It might expose him to misconstruction: and the house had no power to censure men for the expression of their opinions. So also said Irwin, in strong and indignant language.

Weller offered to withdraw the previous question if Mr. Giddings would pledge himself to renew it after he had closed his defence. But this the speaker declared out of order. An attempt to have him speak by universal consent was made; but he had not finished half the first sentence of a declaration that he should not speak as a matter of grace and favour, when Cooper of Ga. rose and objected.

Mr. Adams moved to lay it on the table, but the vote did not prevail. 70 yeas to 124 nays.

The question was taken first on the resolve, which passed, 125 to 69, and then on the preamble, 119 to 66. Only two of the southern men voted nay, Pope and Underwood, of Kentucky. Of the democrats, Parmenter, Ferris, McKean, Roosevelt, Doig, R. D. Davis, Egbert and Gordon, stood by the right. Several of the western whigs voted yea, and all the rest of the democrats and southerners present. Slade and Burnell were sick, and Briggs gone home. About 20 dodged, by going out to avoid voting. Immediately on the announcement of the vote, Barnard, of New York, gave notice of a protest against the action of this house. That protest is said to be a noble document. It has not yet been offered. Everett, of Vermont, Winthrop and Saltonstall, of Massachusetts, Brockway, of Pa., Cowan of Ohio, Bronson and others, yesterday morning called a meeting, of all the northern whig members to consider this protest. But, in consequence of the opposition of some of the Ohio delegation, nothing was done. Another meeting will be held soon.

Slade's manly letter in the *Intelligencer*, making common cause with Giddings, is well worth copying. It is a sample of the prevailing spirit and decision of the mass of the northern members. They are far more excited than they were, even in Mr. Adams' case. And I have no doubt that the result, in its influence upon them as well as elsewhere, will be highly beneficial. The audacious violation of the constitution in censuring a member, without trial or defence, for the free expression of his opinions, must and will rouse the energies of the people. Such despotism is not to be endured.

If the SLAVE POWER cannot be speedily shaken off, nothing can save a union by which the right of petition, and, now, the FREEDOM OF SPEECH also, are destroyed, as the means of rivetting the bondage of the millions of the poor for ever.

After the vote Mr. Giddings, with his usual calmness and decision, rose, passed round the hall, and took leave of his friends, some of whom, especially the venerable ex-president, were deeply affected, and then left the house, accompanied by the whig members of the Ohio delegation. The slavocracy watched his motions with evident alarm. What! did this cautious, prudent northerner dare to question their decree, and appeal to the people against their decision? They had indeed made a blunder and committed a crime too, if that was the case. Their smiling faces became instantly solemn. And, while the house pretended for an hour or two to be in committee on the Loan Bill, the members were, in fact, busied in excited discussion, in little groups, on the nature and consequences of their deed. The next morning Mr. Giddings sent in his letter of resignation, and the Speaker was ordered to communicate it to the governor of Ohio, Cowan, who, by the way, is a particular friend of Mr. Giddings,

and will not be very likely to love the slavocracy any the better for this act. Three hours and a half were then consumed in a series of efforts to amend the Journal, so as to give a more complete or faithful account of the confused doings of the day before. Weller made a strenuous effort to show that he had given Mr. Giddings a chance to defend himself, but that Giddings had refused to do so. "He did right," exclaimed Goode. "He had the same chance to defend himself that a felon with the halter around his neck has. He could make his confession, and that was all. His colleague had refused to make his defence as a matter of favour, and he honoured him for it. They would find some spirit left in Ohio yet." Father Everett, who, on the first day, had uttered a splenetic remark about Mr. Giddings "throwing a fire-brand" among them, also gave them to understand that his powers of endurance were quite exhausted.

The next morning, Mr. Adams moved a suspension of the rules to enable him to propose a standing rule, that henceforth, when a member was charged with any offence, no rule of the house should be construed to deprive him of his right to defend himself. But the 2-3 did not vote for it, yeas 97, nays 77.

Yesterday morning Mr. Giddings left for Ohio. He will doubtless be re-elected without opposition, and will resume his seat by the middle of May, freed from all party ties, and ready to do battle with the slavocracy, tooth and nail, or, rather, heart and soul and mind—things much more dreadful to slavery.

## SLAVERY IN THE FRENCH COLONIES.

From the *Revue des Colonies* of January and February 1842. We informed our readers in a former number, of the frightful crime committed by a manager of an establishment in Guadeloupe on some unfortunate slaves.\* We now present the trial of this case, which was adjudged in November last, by the correctional police. It is astonishing that such great excesses are not delivered up to criminal justice, because the crime, although committed by a white on the person of a black, is not less a crime; and, if there is an incontestable equality in this lower world, it is the equality before justice.

Royal Court—Correctional Police.

Audience of the 16th November.

PRESIDENT M. A. DE LACHARRIERE.

The court being opened, and the attorney-general *pro tem.* having taken his seat, the register read the depositions of the surgeons and the arrest of the chamber of accusation; from which it appeared, that Jean Laffranque, aged 26 years, born at Bagnères, department of Hautes-Pyrénées, is accused—First of having inhumanly treated the slave Dalphon, who was afflicted with a serious disease—of having inflicted on him several blows with the whip and kicked him, only a few seconds before his death—Second, of having tied the slaves Jacob and Six-Pouces to a tree, and thus exposing them many hours to a burning sun—of having then caused them to be tied face to face, and, whilst in that position, forcing them to swallow human excrement, flogging them, and finally burning their posteriors with a hot iron—offences punishable by the ancient ordinances, and by articles 5 and 311 of the penal code.

It appeared from the deposition of the surgeons who were called upon to visit the slaves Six-Pouces and Jacob, as well as the body of the deceased Dalphon, that the loins, buttocks, and thighs of the two first, exhibited the marks of from fifteen to twenty blows with the whip, and two superficial sores of about two and a-half or three inches in diameter, similar to those which a very strong blister would produce; that they were not of a serious nature, and, "if it be true," adds the doctor, "that the hot iron was applied (as Laffranque asserts in his defence) to destroy ulcerations of a bad character, I must declare that he has completely succeeded." The wound might be cured in two or three days. With respect to Dalphon, who had been some days interred, the doctor, after an examination and proof of the disordered state of the stomach and intestines, thus concludes: "in the absence of all external marks of violence, and in presence of the tissue indicating that the individual was in a state of great debility, I think that his death was not the result of violence exercised on him during his life; but must be attributed to that morbid state which is the natural consequence of a diseased stomach."

After the reading of these documents, the usher introduced the witness Jacob, but the explanations which he attempted to give in the Creole language of the facts relating to himself were so contradictory and unintelligible, that the court was obliged to have recourse to an interpreter, hoping that Jacob, a slave from St. Martin, would explain himself better in English. The substance of his evidence was as follows:—

"My first master resided at St. Martin, he brought me to Pointe-à-Pitre, where I was sold to M. Boisaubin, and attached to the establishment under the management of the accused. I was marrooning with the negro Six-Pouces, employed in the same establishment, when we were arrested by M. Laffranque. We were in the first instance bound together face to face with cords, which were then fastened over our heads to the branches of a tamarind tree, our feet rested on the ground: in this position we remained from eight in the morning until noon: M. Laffranque then ordered them to bring a vessel containing the faecal matter, which he introduced into our mouths, and with the nodule of a watering-pot, which served him as a funnel, he poured water into our mouths to force us to swallow it."

Q. Why did he make you swallow this faecal matter? A. It was for punishment. He said to us; "I will not beat you, but I will make you eat excrement."

Q. Were you ill? A. No, because I vomited immediately. After that, we were untied from the tree and laid on the ground. M. Laffranque made Aurelie heat a piece of iron which he applied to the skin, my posteriors and thighs were burnt, he did the same to Six-Pouces.

Q. Had you any ulcers which he wished to cauterize? A. No.

Q. When the accused applied the red hot iron, did he not ask you what you had done with the articles which he accused you of having stolen? A. Yes; but I replied that I had not stolen anything.

Q. Have you not frequently been beaten with tamarind twigs by the

\* Vide Reporter of January 26th, 1842.



negresses on the establishment, who accused you of having robbed their butts? A. It was not I, but Six-Pouces.

Q. Tell us what you know of Dalphont. A. Dalphont was ill, he had a swelled leg. M. Laffranque had made many incisions, in order to cure it. For some time it improved; but the disease returned when they forced him to work. One day he fell into a rut, and M. Laffranque caused him to be covered with earth. Some days afterwards they desired him to draw the carcass of a bullock, with the other negros of the establishment (a large slaughter-house), he fell from exhaustion. M. Laffranque made the driver beat him, and then beat him himself. He died under the blows.

Upon the requisition of the attorney-general, the court directed the reading of the depositions of the witnesses Six-Pouces and Aurélie, both deceased since the arrest of Laffranque.

Six-Pouces corroborated all the circumstances contained in the evidence of Jacob. He adds, that the scars which he had upon his shoulders proceeded from the blows which were given to him by Laffranque; that he had been beaten by many negresses of the establishment, but that their blows had left no traces.

It appeared from the written deposition of Aurélie, that Jacob and Six-Pouces, being tied together in the manner described, complained of being burnt by the sun; that Laffranque said to them, "Ah! Ah! I will show you something immediately, I will burn you directly with a hot iron;" that it was she (Aurélie) who, by his orders put the iron in the fire, from which he withdrew it himself in order to make use of it; that, at the cries of the two unfortunate men, he said, "this burns you so much the better!" What have you done with that which you have stolen?" During this operation, relates the witness, Jacob and Six-Pouces rolled one over another imploring forgiveness. After this Laffranque caused them to be unbound, and, tying their hands and legs together, he forced them to walk by beating them with a *supple-jack*; these cruelties of Laffranque, and the cords together, caused all the wounds of Six-Pouces and Jacob. He made them eat excrement by means of a funnel; he has employed the same means to make her (Aurélie) eat it.

Aurélie further corroborated the evidence of the other witnesses relative to Dalphont.

Suzanne, a slave from St. Martin at present attached to the establishment of M. Boisaubin, stated, that she was present during all that passed, and entered into the most minute details. The day of the death of Dalphont she saw Laffranque dance on his body.

Charles, the overseer, corroborated the former statements, as did also Benedictino, who further added that Laffranque had made her son, a child of six years of age, eat excrement.

Prosper, the slave of M. Brane, being at the time placed for punishment on the establishment managed by Laffranque, gave some evidence of a somewhat contradictory character in support of the charge.

On the requisition of the prisoner's counsel, the deposition of the witness Doré Duval, who had not been subpoenaed, was read. He stated that he had heard Laffranque say that he was obliged to use the hot iron in order to free them from the vermin which they had collected while in the woods.

The prisoner stated in his defence, that the accusation was got up against him by one M. Molas, who wanted his situation, and that his bad counsels had thrown the whole establishment into disorder. The two negros were always running away, and, though he had put them in chains for it, they still persisted in the same offence. Having caught them the last time, he caused them to be tied in the manner described, but the cords were so loose as to allow them to turn round with freedom.

Q. In this position did you not make them eat faecal matter? A. It is false; I merely passed a cloth saturated in it across their mouths. It was only a joke, all the negros laughed at it.

Q. Have you not been in the habit of using this as a means of punishing the negros? A. Never.

Q. Did you not do so to Aurélie? A. It was done as I have stated, and on the day of which I have spoken.

Q. You have heard your overseer (Charles) state that, two weeks after the affair of Jacob and Six-Pouces, you did the same to Aurélie, Mélie, Julie, &c.? A. It is false.

He then, in answer to the question of the court, gave his reasons for using the hot iron, namely to cure a disease, the existence of which was indicated by the sores on the skin of the two negros.

Q. All the witnesses deny the existence of such sores. A. It is as I have stated.

Q. Where did Dalphont come from? A. He had been *marooning* five years. His master sent him to M. Boisaubin to work upon his establishment, advising him by a letter, which you have among the papers, that he often became sick to avoid work. Whilst he was on the establishment his legs were very much inflamed. I was often surprised at finding this man eating dirt; he died of a disease of the stomach resulting therefrom. He fell at his work while dragging a dead bullock; I was not there. When I arrived at the place where the negros were at work, I found him dead.

Q. The commonest humanity should have inspired you with pity towards this poor man; his condition should have excused him from all work. A. The driver will tell you that Dalphont has often been at the hospital. But in fact, it is the general custom not to allow slaves who are afflicted with disease of the stomach to remain inactive. This malady requires exercise and constant surveillance.

Q. Sometime before this did you not cover Dalphont with earth, when he had fallen from weakness into a rut? A. Yes, I made them throw a panier of earth on him, but it was not done in earnest, it was only a joke. I said to him, you desire to die: well! I am going to bury you.

The court then adjourned.

(Audience of the 17th.)

The attorney-general resumed the proceedings, and in an animated discourse summed up the evidence against the prisoner. He laid particular stress on the statements respecting Dalphont, and sought to establish the fact that Laffranque had forced to work and beaten a dying man. He finished by inquiring how it was that the crimes against slaves are frequently of a character which are unheard of against free people. It is, said he, that, in the breasts of some men, religious sentiment is counted for nothing in the relations between master and slave; they do not believe in their fraternity before God. When they exhaust on him whom circumstances has placed in their hands, all the contempt, all the outrages, all the

tortures which a devilish imagination can invent, they do not blush with shame; they do not experience that compunction which rarely fails a man when he is about to injure something made in his own image. It is your sentence, gentlemen, that will restore the slave to his dignity as a man; and if they still repudiate the dogma of his equality before God, they will, at least, be forced to believe in his equality before the law which protects him.

After the reply of the advocate, the court retired into the council-chamber to deliberate, and, at the close of an hour they returned with a sentence which condemned Laffranque to one year's imprisonment!

### Literary Notice.

*Brief Notices of Hayti: with its condition, resources, and prospects.* By JOHN CANDLER. London, 1842.

Our readers are already familiar with the fact, that Mr. Candler has travelled extensively in the British West Indies, to ascertain the working of freedom there. The little volume now before us acquaints us that he spent some time also in surveying the island of St. Domingo, now constituting the republic of Hayti. He furnishes a very simple, lucid, and interesting account of that which he saw and ascertained; and has made a valuable addition to the hitherto very small amount of knowledge possessed by the world at large respecting this important portion of it. The author treats, in the course of his narrative, on all the topics, whether lighter or more grave, on which the reader can wish for information; and uniformly in a manner so sensible, instructive, and agreeable, that one can hardly fail to arrive at the end of the volume with regret. As a sample we make one extract, relating to the cultivation of sugar and general commerce.

"The greater part of the land, in some of the extensive plains, is well adapted to the cultivation of sugar; and the exportation of that article was once very large. Previous to the year 1789, according to the table given by Bryan Edwards, in his history of the West Indies, the annual export of sugar from this colony, chiefly to the mother country, was 1,296,360 cwts., or about 65,000 hogsheads of a ton each. This trade has entirely ceased; and on this circumstance is built the hypothesis, maintained in France, and in all the colonies where slavery still exists, that freedom has ruined the island, and that slavery, and slavery alone, can be relied on to ensure a sufficient supply of sugar for the markets of the old world. By far the larger part of the estates of the old proprietors went out of cultivation for want of hands, on the depopulation that followed the civil wars; but much land is still devoted to the sugar-cane, and yields an abundant supply of syrup, or uncrystallized sugar, and also of a spirit that is distilled from it, called *tafia*, which is consumed in the island to an astonishing extent. A great part of what once constituted the wealth of slave-proprietors goes to supply the wants of the descendants of their slaves, who are now free, and possess the soil. It is quite true that these wants of the people pursue a wrong direction—that sugar is better than *tafia*—that it would be far better to export sugar, and purchase manufactured goods with the produce, than to consume the ardent spirit distilled from it: but this is a matter of taste with the consumers, whose comforts real or imaginary are bound up in the present system; and all we can say to them, as we might say to multitudes of the English, Scotch, and Irish, who pursue the same course, is, that in using strong drinks they greatly mistake the meaning of comfort, and retard their own advancement in civil society. The syrup consumed is of excellent quality, as good and useful for all domestic purposes as sugar itself.

"A review of the present exports of Hayti, brings us to a comparison of its foreign commerce with that carried on by other nations: nor shall we discover in it that ruinous deficiency of which the pro-slavery press of Europe and America is so constantly complaining. The annual exports of the republic at the present day exceed in value a million sterling. Its trade with the United States of America was greater a few years since than it is at the present time. In the year 1839, the United States imported from Hayti to the value of 2,347,556 dollars; and exported thence to the value of 1,815,212 dollars, whilst, from all the British West Indies in the same period, the imports were only 1,835,227 dollars, the exports 1,522,347 dollars, leaving a balance of imports in favour of Hayti, as compared with that of our colonies, of more than 500,000 dollars! In the same year, Hayti sent more merchandize to the United States than almost any European power, except Great Britain, France, and Russia, and nearly as much as the latter. During the year 1840, the imports of foreign goods into the United States amounted to 107,141,519 dollars. The exports to 132,085,946 dollars, or £27,000,000 sterling. The population of the United States is twenty times as large as that of Hayti: its trade is only twenty-seven times as large.

"In the year 1840, the declared value of British and Irish produce and manufactures exported from this country to Hayti, was £251,979, a larger amount than it sent either to Denmark, to Prussia, or to our own trading port of Malta; and more than half as much as it exported either to Mexico or to the great empire of China! The total value of the produce and manufactures of the United Kingdom, exported from this country in 1839, was £50,060,970. The total mean value of produce exported from Hayti, in the years 1838 and 1839, as we have seen in the previous table, was £1,040,799. The population of Hayti may be estimated at 850,000; that of Great Britain and Ireland is twenty-seven millions.

Thus we see that the exports of the United Kingdom, considered relatively in proportion to the number of its inhabitants, are as one-eighty-five to one; those from the United States of America, as one-sixty-five to one; those from Hayti, as one-twenty-five to one. So that Hayti, poor, and despised as she is, has a commerce, in native produce, nearly three-fourths as large, in proportion to her population, as our own United Kingdom, which is the great manufacturing mart of the world; and seven-eighths as large as that of the United States, where the staple exports are produced by the labour of three millions of slaves! The only disadvantage to Hayti in this comparison is, that Great Britain has an immense carrying trade: Hayti has none: but how can she be expected to raise a



commerce of this kind without capital; and how can capital be created whilst she continues to exclude foreigners from her soil, and whilst her institutions tend rather to depress than to encourage the industry of her people?"

#### BRITISH GUIANA: OPPOSITION TO THE RENT SYSTEM.

(From the *Guiana Gazette*.)

The old school planters have steadily resisted the introduction of the rent system, on the ground that it would make the labourers independent, and would deprive the estates of a regular command of labour.

Now, granting all the force to this objection to which any body can possibly suppose it entitled, the answer is most complete and satisfactory. By refusing to rent cottages to the labourers, by depriving them of the right to become tenants on your property, on which, perhaps, they were born, and to which they have a strong attachment, you actually compel them, for the sake of that independence which they covet quite as much as you fear it, to become independent proprietors, to club together to buy plantations, or to buy lots, and move away from you altogether.

The very strong disposition of the labourers to buy land of their own, and the very high prices they have been induced to pay, are to be ascribed in a great measure to the general refusal to allow them to become tenants; and it is worthy of remark, that several of those who have been the most violent opponents of the rent system and of the independence of the labourers, have yet, when they could get a good price, been ready enough to sell their own land at a profit, and have thus contributed to produce, in its most aggravated form, the very evil which they set up as a decisive objection to the rent system.

We have heard, for instance, the following very good story of a celebrated conservative, so brim-full of old school notions that he has advanced a thousand pounds for the establishment of a new conservative journal—the sun-shiny side of which thousand pounds he has seen, poor man! for the last time—who happened formerly to possess a plantain cultivation in the neighbourhood of *Victoria*, the first purchase of the emancipated negroes. In the excess of his patriotic fervor against the labourers becoming proprietors, it is alleged that he gave out, that, although he dealt in plantain stools, the ordinary price of which was a bit each, yet to the fellows who had bought *Victoria*, he would not sell one for less than a guilder. Little did this gentleman think, when putting forth this pompous little threat, that within a little three years he would himself sell his own plantain walk, and the very house over his head, to a body of emancipated labourers, and would make so much money by the transaction as to be able to throw away a thousand pounds upon the establishment of a newspaper, intended to preach to others those conservative principles which he himself, in practice, had found it convenient to depart from. Whether he sold his land upon the same generous principles and with the same disproportionate profits which he proposed to himself in the sale of his plantain stools, we are not informed. But one thing we do know, and that is, that plantation *Friendship* is drawing off from the neighbouring estates, and turning into freeholders, many of the best labourers whom the short-sighted policy of their employers has not permitted to become tenants.

This is a point of view in which, perhaps, the open opposers or lukewarm friends of the rent system have not considered it; a view which if they will take—and if they have sense enough not to fall into the ridiculous notion of mistaking obstinacy in error for a proof of sagacity and wisdom—may lead them to allow a measure to pass, which is quite as essential to themselves as it will be advantageous to the labourers.

#### DEMERARA.

EXTRACT of a letter addressed to the Treasurer of the British and Foreign Anti-slavery Society, dated George Town, February 21st, 1842.

"We have, as you may suppose, been greatly interested by the recent capture of a slaver on the coast of Essequibo, an account of which first appeared in the *Guiana Times* (an apparently pro-slavery paper), and was afterwards copied into the *Gazette*. As you will have seen the statement ere this, I have no need to recapitulate. Of the proceedings of the authorities in relation to it we have not yet heard any intimation; but to us it seems wonderful here, that under any circumstances, a slaver should have strayed into these latitudes, and, after escaping the vigilance of our cruisers on the African seas, should have become the easy prize of one of our own plantations (Richmond in Guiana).

"I rejoice to learn, that, generally speaking, a better understanding is beginning to prevail between many of the labourers and their employers than had been anticipated, the obnoxious rules and regulations having ceased to be extensively the *sine qua non* of the planters, and the former rates agreed to by the labourers on those plantations where they had been partially raised during the urgent prices of sugar in Britain. Such plantations as sought to reduce the wages lower than formerly, not having previously raised them, have found it their interest not to contest the point further to the injury of the plantations, and are using means to induce such of their valuable labourers as had left them to return. And though some now affect to despise religion and now to court its aid, little do they know its real excellence, or understand the extent to which they are indebted to its influence for the general peacefulness of the people, or for the disposition of many of them to return to the labours of the field. Much good may be expected to result from some proprietors of estates having at length wisely advertised the front waste lands of their plantations for sale, in lots sufficient for a cottage and a garden, which will doubtless be sought after by such of the labourers as may attain to it. Better had it been, both for themselves and the general prosperity of the province, had this plan been adopted earlier, so as to have enabled them to form themselves into independent villages near the cultivated lands, instead of forming certain kinds of joint-stock companies for the purchase of abandoned, if not barren lands, with, I fear, small prospect of advantage. There are doubtless exceptions, and it is gratifying to observe the progress that is making, in some parts of the provinces, toward the erection of embryo townships.

"Every one must perceive that it will be the planters' wisdom to use conciliation and kindness; unreasonable determinations, however obstinately persisted in, can work nothing but injury to the employers and the employed.

"I have recently heard very little about immigration or immigrants—some pitiable objects now and then present themselves at my door, whose tale of

sorrow ignorance of their language renders it next to impossible to ascertain. Their attitudes have evinced the devoutest gratitude when either food, or money, or clothing, according to their apparent necessities, has been administered by us. Others have been advantageously circumstanced, and by frugality, perseverance, and skill, appear to attain a competency as petty hucksters. Of the probability of any attaining to wealth on plantation labour, no very favourable opinion is likely to be formed by any who have become acquainted with recent events."

**SLAVE-TRADE.**—The *Univers* states, that, notwithstanding the severe penalties enacted by the authorities of Port Rico and Cuba against persons engaged in the slave-trade, that infamous traffic was still publicly carried on in those islands. "The person who writes these lines," says that Journal, "saw, in the month of August, 1841, two schooners fitting out at San Juan for the coast of Africa. He also beheld at Havana, a few months later, five negro ships armed with guns, which had just landed a considerable number of slaves. The wretches interested in the trade give large bribes to the public functionaries of the districts in which they land the Africans. Finally, in the small island of Bieque, contiguous to Porto Rico, the governor, a former planter of Guadeloupe, receive the slave ships, and encourages by every means in his power that abominable traffic in human flesh."—*Times*.

**ENGLISH SLAVE-HOLDERS IN BRAZIL.**—From the *Diario, or Daily Official Gazette of Pernambuco*, 1st Dec. 1841.—Run away on the 20th ultimo, a black woman named Maria, belonging to the English parson residing at Madelena, of thirty-five years of age, stature regular, feet and hands small, has a scar on the left cheek the size of a halfpenny, which runs to the bottom of the cheek; has another large scar above the left side on the back between the shoulders, had on a dress of blue and yellow print, and shift of unbleached cotton; whoever takes her, carry her to Cross Street, No. 43, shall be rewarded.

From the same, 3rd Feb. 1842.—Run away on the 22d ultimo, from the seat of the reverend English priest, a black man named José Loanda, of 40 to 45 years old, has some white hairs, height regular, little beard, has some of the front upper teeth rotten, of the Benguela nation; had on a blue shirt and trousers of bagging; whoever takes him carry him to Cross Street, No. 43, shall be recompensed.

#### DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.

The following contributions have been received during the past month, and are hereby gratefully acknowledged.

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#### Advertisements.

**BRITISH AND FOREIGN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY,**  
for the Abolition of Slavery and the Slave-trade throughout the World.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THIS SOCIETY

Will take place in EXETER HALL, on FRIDAY, 13th May, 1842.

The Most Noble the MARQUIS of CLANRICARDE will preside.

The Doors will be open at Ten, and the Chair will be taken at Eleven o'clock, precisely. J. H. TREDGOLD, Secretary.

Admission by Tickets only, which may be had at the SOCIETY'S OFFICE, 27, New Broad Street; THOMAS WARD and Co., 27, Paternoster Row; HATCHARD & SON, 187, Piccadilly; JAMES NISBET & Co., Berners Street; JACOB POST, Lower Road, Islington; JOSEPH STERRY & SON, 156, High Street, Borough; JEREMIAH CLARK, 13, Moorgate Street; and CHARLES GILPIN, 5, Bishopsgate Street Without.

Just Published.—Price Half-a-Crown. ]

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